



# **Public Informational Meeting**

**Wallingford Town Hall, Room 315  
45 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT  
Tuesday December 3, 2013**

## **STATE PROJECT NO. 148-200 RELOCATION OF THE NORTHBOUND ON-RAMP TO ROUTE 15 AT INTERCHANGE 65 TOWN OF WALLINGFORD**

### **CONNECTICUT DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION PERSONNEL PRESENT:**

#### **OFFICE OF HIGHWAY DESIGN**

**William W. Britnell, P.E.**

Transportation Principal Engineer  
(860) 594-3274

**Susan M. Libatique, P.E.**

Project Manager  
(860) 594-3179

**Matthew R. Vail, P.E.**

Project Engineer  
(860) 594-3342

**Stephen D. Hall**

Transportation Engineer  
(860) 594-2591

**Megha Jain**

Transportation Engineer  
(860) 594-3396

#### **OFFICE OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

**Robert W. Ike**

Supervising Property Agent  
(860) 594-2444

#### **OFFICE OF TRAFFIC ENGINEERING**

**Michael A. Chachakis**

Transportation Engineer  
(860) 594-2750

#### **OFFICE OF BRIDGE DESIGN**

**Jon R. Hagert, P.E.**

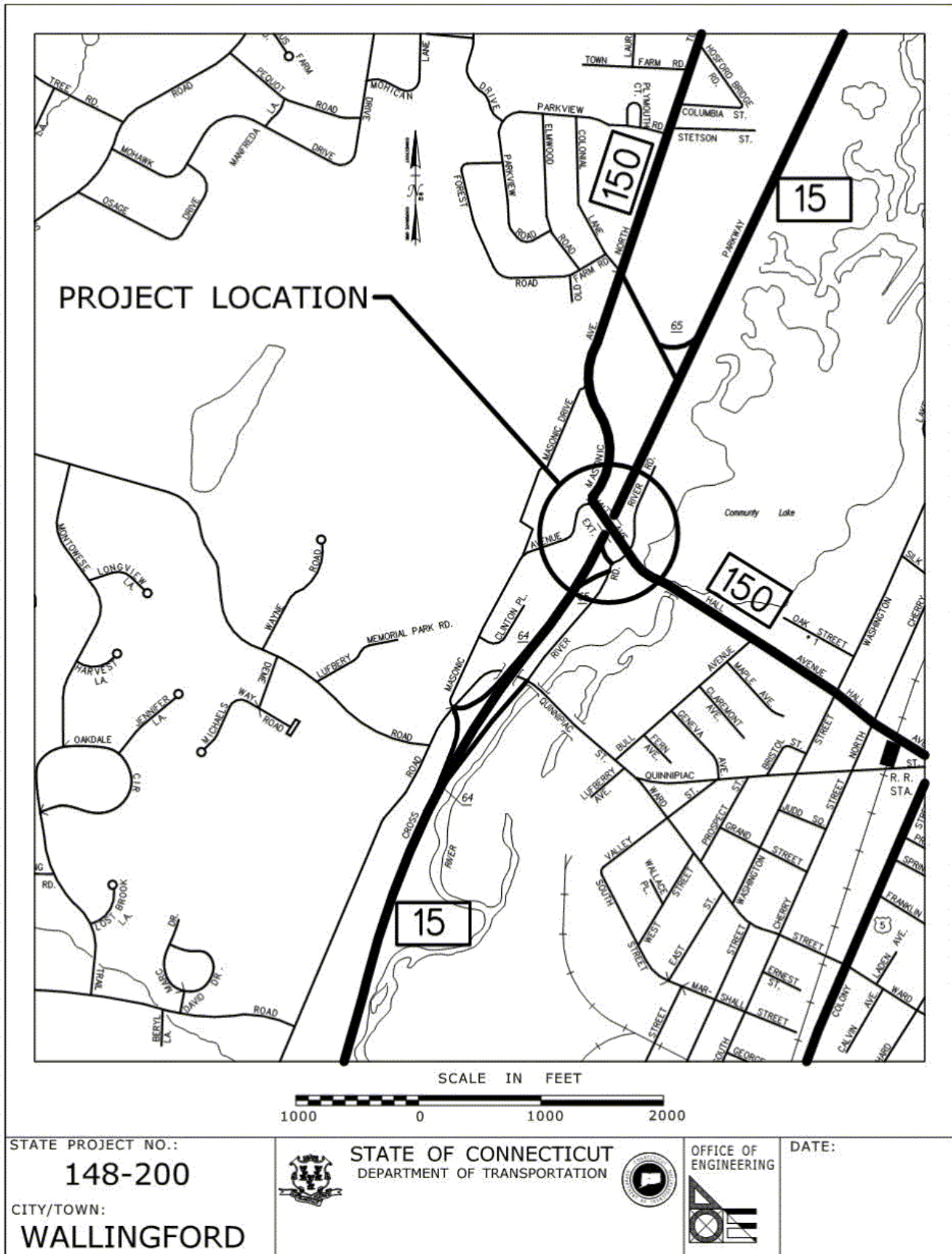
Project Manager  
(860) 594-3417

**Jonathan W. Kang**

Transportation Engineer  
(860) 594-2754



# LOCATION PLAN



**PROJECT LOCATION:**

This project is located adjacent to Route 15 (Wilbur Cross Parkway) northbound Exit #65 in the town of Wallingford. The Route 15 northbound exit and entrance ramps are located between Quinnipiac Street to the south and Bridge #0792 carrying Route 150 (Hall Avenue) to the north .

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The scope of work includes constructing a more conventional at-grade on-ramp immediately east of the northern parapet of the bridge carrying Route 150 over Route 15 (Bridge No. 0792). It will be aligned parallel to and between Route 15 and Community Lake Park. The westbound approach of Route 150 will be widened to provide an exclusive right-turn lane onto the new on-ramp and the Community Lake Park driveway. Removing the disconnected stretch of sidewalk along the southern parapet of Bridge #0792 will allow Route 150 to be widened for the installation of an eastbound left-turn lane onto the new on-ramp.

The intersection of Route 150 and the on-ramp will be signalized and the new signal will be synchronized with the existing signal at the intersection of River Road. The new signal will remain green during most conditions and will only provide “force-off” detection in case the back-up of vehicles turning left onto the Route 15 on-ramp exceeds the storage capacity. Route 150 at Masonic Avenue also warrants a new traffic signal which will be coordinated with the new on-ramp signal and the River Road signal. Sidewalks will also be extended along the north side of Route 150 from the Community Lake Park driveway to the Route 15 overpass. The existing sidewalk along the overpass terminates at the west end of the bridge parapet and will be extended to the intersection of Route 150 and Masonic Avenue.

The western side of River Road will be widened to accommodate the extension of the existing northbound left turn lane. A wedge course will be required on the eastern side of the road to correct the cross slope. Although the Exit #65 on-ramp is being relocated, the off-ramp will remain at its current location. Removal of the existing on-ramp to the parkway reduces congestion at the Route 150 and River Road intersection. Reducing left-turn movements from Route 150 westbound further improves capacity and lowers the potential for crashes.

The new design will eliminate the existing stop sign controlled entrance ramp condition, improve safety, and increase capacity on River Road. The ramp relocation and roadway improvements will minimize back-ups, improve traffic flow and address safety concerns.

Construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2016 based on the availability of funding. The estimated construction cost for this project is approximately \$4.3 million. This project is anticipated to be undertaken with 90% Federal funds and 10% State funds.

**CRASH EXPERIENCE:**

The most recent three-year available crash data (January 2009 to December 2011) indicated that there were 163 reported crashes on northbound Route 15 at Exit #65 (MP 58.43 to 58.66). The majority of the reported crashes were rear-end type crashes, with 150 occurring at the on-ramp resulting in 35 injuries.

**RIGHTS OF WAY:**

The westbound approach of Route 150 will be widened to provide an exclusive right-turn lane for the new on-ramp and the Community Lake Park driveway. This widening will require a sliver acquisition of Community Lake Park including slope easements to accommodate the proposed sidewalk. A small area of the park's parking lot will also be used as a temporary work area for construction. Community lake Park is eligible for preservation under Section 4(f) of the 1966 DOT ACT, however since these impacts will not alter the current use of the park it is expected to receive a de minimis classification.

**SITE ACCESS ASSUMPTIONS:**

Construction may utilize areas within the existing Highway Right-of-Way between Route 15 northbound and River Road. There is a potential for overhead utility conflicts especially for excavators and equipment while modifying the existing Route 150 Bridge (Bridge No. 0792) over Route 15 and during the construction of the new on-ramp and retaining wall.

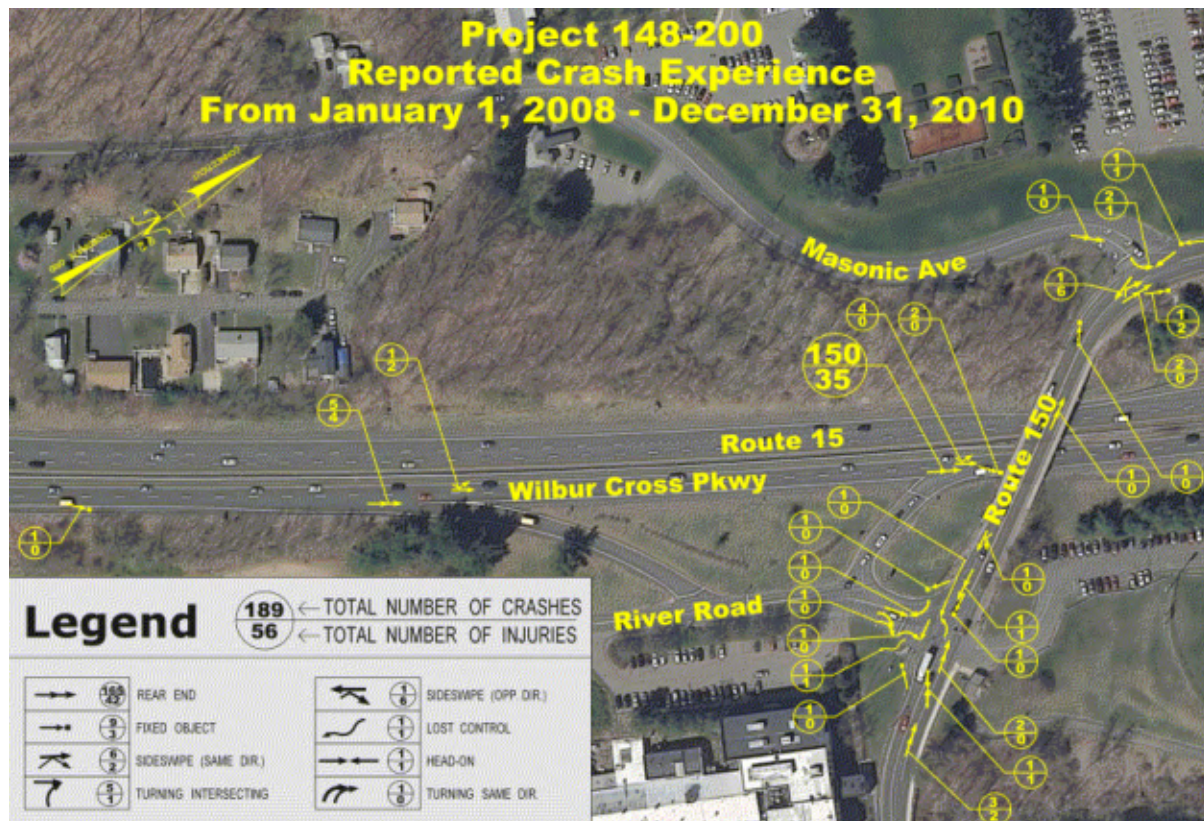
**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ASSUMPTIONS:**

Traffic will be maintained on the existing roadways during construction. Periods of alternating one-way traffic will be required during the River Road and Route 150 widening, and installation of the proposed drainage structures. The new on-ramp will be fully constructed and functional before closing the existing on-ramp. A Transportation Management Plan (TMP) is required for this project due to the high traffic volumes on Route 15 within the project limits. Maintenance and Protection of Traffic specifications will be developed during the Final Design Stage.

**BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN CONSIDERATIONS**

Access to Quinnipiac River Linear Trail: This paved trail is located parallel to the town of Wallingford's Community Lake Park and continues between the Quinnipiac River and the Wilbur Cross Parkway and ends approximately one and a quarter miles north of the project site. This paved path is open to all users including bicyclists and pedestrians and is accessible from the Community Lake Park Drive intersection with Route 150 and River Road.

Bicycles: Route 15 has access control and prohibits bicycle access. Given the high ADT and narrow shoulders on Route 150, it currently has a "less suitable" and "suitable" rating within the project limits according to the Department sponsored Statewide Bicycle Map website, [ctbikemap.org](http://ctbikemap.org). River Road is not featured on the map, however due to the lack of shoulders and a high volume of traffic exiting Route 15, it is not recommended for bicyclists. Route 15, Route 150 and River Road are not designated bicycle routes, multi-use paths, or greenways.



Crash Experience



Proposed Location of On-Ramp

## EXISTING TRAFFIC CONDITIONS



Congestion During the A.M. Commute



### **UTILITY CONFLICTS:**

The following utility companies may have facilities within the project limits:

- Comcast of Connecticut, Inc
- The Southern New England Telephone Co. (AT&T Connecticut)
- Fiber Technologies Networks, LLC (Level 3 Communications)
- WiTel Communications, LLC
- Town of Wallingford Department of Public Utilities – Electric Division
- Spectra Energy Operating Company, LLC (formerly: Algonquin Gas Transmission Co.)
- Yankee Gas Services Company
- City of Meriden, Department of Public Works – Water Bureau
- Town of Wallingford Department of Public Utilities – Water & Sewer

Test pits will be requested to confirm locations of underground utilities with respect to the proposed storm water drainage system once it is designed.

**ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST:** \$ 4.3 million

**FUNDING:** 90% Federal Funds/ 10% State Funds

### **CURRENT PROJECT SCHEDULE:**

Engineering Completion: April, 2015

Advertising for Construction: May, 2015

Construction is anticipated to start in the Spring of 2016.

### **COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Documents and other information are available for public inspection or copying at the Connecticut Department of Transportation Engineering Office at 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, Monday - Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., holidays excluded.

All comments and recommendations made at this meeting will receive careful consideration by the Connecticut Department of Transportation. As a result of the information gained at this meeting, some of you may wish to make additional statements. Additional statements, made in writing, should be sent to:

**Mr. Timothy M. Wilson, P.E.**  
**Manager of Highway Design**  
**Connecticut Department of Transportation**  
**P.O. Box 317546**  
**Newington, Connecticut 06131-7546**  
**or at Internet address**  
**Timothy.Wilson@CT.Gov**

Comments are appreciated by December 17, 2013